

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7662

S E C R E T KABUL 3326

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PINT, UR

SUBJEC: ASYLUM REQUEST

1. COLONEL DIN MOHAMMAD, UNTIL COUP CHIEF OF AFGHAN AIR FORCE, ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 29 APPEARED SEEKING ASYLUM AT THE HOME OF AIR ATTACHE COLONEL MAHLON PIPER.

2. COLONEL DIN MOHAMMAD REPORTS THAT, AT APPROXIMATELY 1500 ON DAY OF COUP (APRIL 27), HIS COMMAND AT KHAWJA RAWASH, AIR FORCE HQS AT KABUL AIRPORT, WAS SURROUNDED BY TANKS. HE ORDERED AN AIRSTRIKE FROM BASE AT BAGRAM AGAINST TANKS AND AIR FORCE UNITS RESPONDED.

3. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, COLONEL QADER, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED CHIEF OF DEFENSE FORCES IN NEW REGIME, DEPARTED AIR FORCE HQS BY HELICOPTER FOR BAGRAM. AT APPROXIMATELY 1610 COL DIN MOHAMMAD RECEIVED A CALL FROM PRESIDENT DAOUD, REQUESTING AIR STRIKES AGAINST OPPOSING FORCES NEAR THE PALACE. COLONEL DIN MOHAMMAD WAS THEN ARRESTED BY TANK FORCES AND AIRSTRIKE REQUESTED BY DAOUD ATTACKED PALACE ITSELF, AND NOT RPT NOT OPPOSING FORCES.

4. COL DIN MOHAMMAD REPORTS THAT HE AND HIS SUPERIOR, GENERAL MUSA, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCES; GENERAL SATAR, DEPUTY CHIEF; AND COLONEL QASIM; AIR FORCE CHIEF OF

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INTELLIGENCE, WERE ROUNDED UP FOR PURPOSES OF EXECUTION, AND THAT LATTER THREE WERE EXECUTED. HE STATES THAT OPPOSING FORCES SHOT AT HIM, BUT FAILED TO KILL HIM, AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD. HE LATER ESCAPED FROM AREA AND MADE HIS WAY TO RELATIVES. HE BELIEVES THAT NEW GOVERNMENT THINKS HE IS DEAD.

5. COLONEL DIN MOHAMMAD ALSO REPORTS THAT AMONG OPPOSING TANK

OFFICERS WAS A SOVIET ADVISER DRESSED IN AFGHAN UNIFORM.

6. COLONEL DIN MOHAMMAD'S STORY IS CREDIBLE AND EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY IF GOVERNMENT APPREHENDS HIM HE WILL BE EXECUTED. AS REPORTED KABUL 3323, RADIO AFGHANISTAN THIS EVENING ANNOUNCED EXECUTION GENERAL MUSA.

7. IN VIEW OF IMPENDING 2300 HOUR CURFEW, COLONEL DIN MOHAMMAD WILL REMAIN OVERNIGHT AT RESIDENCE OF AIR ATTACHE. REQUEST DEPT ADVICE BY NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE WHETHER OR NOT TO EXTEND ASYLUM TO DIN MOHAMMAD. DIN MOHAMMAD, ALTHOUGH A SENIOR AIR FORCE OFFICER, HAS LITTLE INTELLIGENCE VALUE, AND HIS CASE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.

ELIOT

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